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Serial No. 10/765,291
60,130-1907; 03MRA0279

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hayes
Serial No.: 10/765,291
Filed: 1/27/2004
Art Unit: 3617
Title: Central Tire Inflation System for Drive Axle

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of May 22, 2006, applicant requests consideration of the following arguments. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1, 11, and 16. Claims 2-9 are indicated as allowable, and claims 11-15 are allowed.

Claims 1, 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stech (US 5377736). Claim 1 recites the feature of a seal assembly cooperating with the first end of the laterally extending bore to provide a sealed air flow path extending from the air source, through the bore, and to the tire assembly. Stech does not disclose this feature.

The examiner argues that fitting 70 is connected to the first end of the axle, and argues that although seals 40, 50, 52 do not contact the first end 21 of the axle, the seals cooperate with the first end 21 to provide a sealed air path. Claim 1 recites that the wheel shaft includes a laterally extending bore having a first end in fluid communication with an air source and a second end in fluid communication with a tire assembly. The examiner's "first end," i.e. end 21 with fitting 70 is not the end of the shaft that is in fluid communication with the air source. End